UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

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## THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council terminates Trusteeship Agreement for Palau -- last remaining United Nations Trust Territory; says aims of Agreement have been fully met following Compact of Free Association with United States.

+ Secretary-General reiterates offer of good offices to promote renewed dialogue between Albania and Greece; discusses situations in several African countries with Second Deputy President of South Africa; voices concern about deteriorating conditions in Angola.

+ Government of Angola reaffirms its determination to formally sign Lusaka Protocol as scheduled, noting international pessimism; says it has no intention of resolving Angolan conflict militarily.

+ United Nations launches inter-agency appeal for $106 million to fund emergency programmes for Afghanistan for one year; focuses on victims of war in Kabul and returning refugees and displaced persons.

+ Bihac ammunition factory destroyed in missile attack by aircraft flying over Serb-held territory in Croatia; Bosnian airspace possibly violated in incident.

+ Committee on Relations with Host Country, adopting report to General Assembly, reminds all missions and diplomatic personnel to meet their financial obligations.

+ United Nations operations could lose support of international community if safety of personnel is not ensured, Japan tells Legal Committee; stresses need to protect humanitarian workers.

+ Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention visits Bhutan and Viet Nam at invitation of State authorities; meets with ministers, police officials and prisoners.

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For information media—not an official record

The Security Council today terminated the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement for Palau, the Organization's last Trust Territory. In light of the entry into force on 1 October of a Compact of Free Association between Palau and the Administering Authority, the United States, the Council determined that the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement had been fully attained. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 956 (1994).

The Trusteeship Council made the same determination on 1 November when it formally suspended its operations after nearly half a century. In future, it will meet only on an extraordinary, as-needed basis. Palau's status as a "strategic area" required that the Trusteeship Agreement be terminated by a Security Council decision.

In today's resolution, the Security Council expressed satisfaction that the people of Palau had freely exercised their right to self-determination, approving the new status agreement in a plebiscite observed by a Trusteeship Council mission.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali remains committed to his offer of good offices with a view to promoting a renewal of dialogue between Albania and Greece, a United Nations spokesman said today. He recalled that the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Rosario Green, had discussed relations between the two countries during a meeting with the Permanent Representative of Greece.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with the Second Deputy President of South Africa, F.W. de Klerk, and discussed the situations in Angola, Mozambique and Rwanda, among other topics. He expressed concern at the deterioration of the situation in Angola following the initialling of a peace accord by the parties there, and expressed hope that they would continue to strive for peace.

The Secretary-General said he hoped that the next phase of the Mozambican peace process would go smoothly following the recent national elections. He thanked the Second Deputy President for South Africa's positive contribution to that process, and stressed the importance of its role in the post-electoral period. Mr. de Klerk thanked the Secretary-General for appointing a United Nations Resident Coordinator in South Africa, and assured him that the country would play an active role in the commemoration of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary next year.

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The Government of Angola has reaffirmed its determination to formally sign the Lusaka Protocol as agreed last month. It made that reaffirmation in a letter to the Security Council dated 9 November, "in view of the climate of pessimism that has arisen internationally" with regard to the Angolan peace process. The Government said it would send a military delegation to Lusaka to begin discussions with the military leaders of the Union for the Total

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Independence of Angola (UNITA) so that the Protocol could be signed on 15 November.

The Government also reaffirmed that it had no intention of resolving the Angolan conflict militarily. It believed that the upcoming talks with UNITA would establish the conditions for a return to peace and national reconciliation, and that all Angolans could live together under a framework of mutual respect and political tolerance.

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The United Nations today launched a new inter-agency appeal for $106 million to fund emergency programmes for Afghanistan for one year beginning 1 October 1994. Those programmes deal with internally displaced persons, mine clearance, voluntary repatriation, food aid, water supply and sanitation, and health and education. The appeal focuses on the needs of the victims of the war in Kabul and on easing the burden on areas absorbing returning refugees and displaced persons.

Relief and food aid for internally displaced persons together account for some $40 million of the total amount sought. An estimated 900,000 people have been displaced by the conflict in Afghanistan, and some 650,000 are currently dispersed around the country in camps and private dwellings. In addition, 250,000 people are living in camps near Jalalabad, with 1,000 more arriving daily from Kabul.

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The Bosnian town of Bihac yesterday came under missile attack from an aircraft flying over Serb-held territory in Croatia, according to a United Nations spokesman. An ammunition factory on the outskirts of the town was destroyed in the attack, and there were casualties among workers and others.

The spokesman noted that the aircraft had been tracked by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) after taking off from a military airfield in the Krajina area, and that it may have briefly violated Bosnian airspace. A senior United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) civilian official visited Knin today to protest the incident.

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The Committee on Relations with the Host Country today reminded all permanent missions, their personnel and Secretariat personnel of their responsibilities to meet their financial obligations. It requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly with recommendations on how to address the issue.

By adopting its report to the Assembly, the Committee took note of concerns expressed by the host country and others regarding the growing problem of financial indebtedness. It requested that the Committee Chairman and the host country meet with the Secretary-General to discuss the issue,

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which had harmed the image of the United Nations and its Members in New York and impaired the ability of some missions and diplomats to obtain services and accommodation. The Committee also noted that the issue of indebtedness had arisen in other cities hosting United Nations offices and might require a system-wide response.

The Committee also expressed the hope that remaining travel restrictions on personnel of certain missions and Secretariat staff members of certain nationalities would be removed by the host country as soon as possible. It went on to express appreciation for the efforts made by the host country to ensure the security of missions and the safety of their personnel.

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If measures are not taken to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel, the Organization's operations will be unable to discharge their responsibilities effectively and could lose the support of the international community, the representative of Japan told the Sixth Committee (Legal) yesterday. The Committee was continuing its debate on a draft convention on the question of responsibility for attacks against United Nations personnel.

The Japanese representative went on to say that personnel involved in humanitarian operations often worked in dangerous situations and were in even greater need of protection than peace-keepers. However, under the terms of the draft, they were not covered unless the Security Council or the General Assembly declared the existence of exceptional risk, whereas peace-keeping personnel were automatically covered. He stressed that there should be no differentiation between peace-keeping and humanitarian operations.

The Chinese representative said the draft did not meet certain requirements. The term "United Nations operations" should address peace-keeping operations aimed at maintaining international peace and security. The consent and cooperation of the State or the parties concerned should be ensured, and such operations should be under the command and control of the United Nations. The convention should only cover operations authorized by the Security Council, and should reiterate the principles of State sovereignty and non-intervention in internal affairs. The representative of Malaysia said the adoption of a convention on the safety of United Nations and associated personnel would send a clear signal that acts of violence against them would not be tolerated by the international community.

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The Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has visited Bhutan and Viet Nam at the invitation of the authorities in those countries. In Bhutan from 17 to 22 October, the Group was granted two audiences with the King, and had meetings with Government ministers, judicial authorities, and those responsible for the police and the administration of the penitentiary system. It also visited places of detention and met with prisoners without constraints or witnesses. The Group then presented recommendations which the King said would be applied without delay.

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From 24 to 31 October, the Working Group was in Viet Nam, where it had meetings with State and local authorities. It visited education and rehabilitation-through-work centres, and was able to meet with prisoners, in some cases without witnesses. The Group, which returned to Geneva on 7 November, will report on its visits to the Human Rights Commission during its next session from 30 January to 10 March 1995.

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